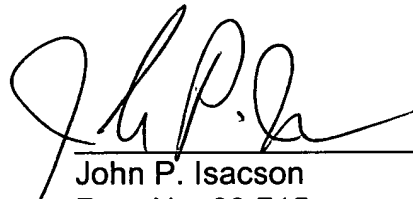


REMARKS

Claims 1-12, and 14 are pending in the application. Claim 13 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 14 is new and is supported by the original claim 3. Claims 1-3, 5, and 10-12 are amended for clarity and to remove multiple dependencies. Amendments are supported by the original claims 10-13. No new matter has been added.

A first office action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,



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December 20, 2004
Date

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